*Reply of Government.*—The member is under a misapprehension. By Government Order No. 5276-84—Mis. 153-03-3, dated the 16th December 1904, nirgantis are bound to attend to the proper distribution of water and prevent its waste. The matter will be further considered in connection with the organization of Village Panchayets.

SUBJECT No. 64.

Restoration and repair of minor tanks.

(i) Messrs. Suryanaranappa, Sonne Gowda and Byre Gowda, Kolar Taluk.

(iii) Messrs. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, B.A., LL.B., and H. Ramappa, Shimoga Municipality; and Shama Rao, Sagar Taluk.

(v) Mr. Rama Rao, Malur Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—(i) The question of restoring the minor tanks is a very important one and early orders are solicited as there are more minor than major tanks.

(ii) The repairs and restoration of minor tanks engaged the attention of Government in former days, whereas now big projects like Marikanave, Boranakanave and Mavathur are undertaken at great cost. The utility of such tanks to the people is general is very little and the income to the Government much less. The restoration of minor tanks at a fourth of the cost would afford water convenience and facilities for cultivation.

(iii) As it is not always possible to secure the cooperation of the raiyats for repairing minor tanks, the Revenue authorities might repair the same and levy the cost of the raiyats' quota as a revenue demand.

(iv) The cost of earthwork required to be done by the raiyats to minor tanks may, it is suggested, be advanced by Government, and recovered in four years along with the kandayam. This measure will be profitable both to the Government and the raiyats.

(v) In calculating the amount of contribution to be paid for the restoration of minor tanks it is requested that the assessment on both occupied and unoccupied assessed lands may be taken into consideration.

*Reply of Government.*—Liberal provision is made for the repairs of minor tanks every year and Government are considering in connection with the organization of Village Panchayets, how best to entrust to the people themselves the maintenance of these tanks and thus remove all cause for complaints.

For purposes of calculating the contribution to be paid towards the restoration of tanks, it is not possible to include the unoccupied lands as it is not certain when they will be taken up and the charge upon them cannot be kept on indefinitely. These lands are generally put up to auction and are thus made to contribute indirectly.

SUBJECT No. 65.

Abolition of voluntary contribution.

Mr. A. Narasimhaiya, Malvalli Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—Contributions recoverable from raiyats for works carried out by the Public Works Department are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory. It is prayed that contributions be made compulsory in the case of all tanks the restoration of which is deemed

necessary. In the case of voluntary contributions it is possible for a minority to defeat a useful work from being undertaken by refusing to pay any contribution. So if a majority agree to contribute, provision may be made to recover the proportionate contribution from others compulsorily.

*Reply of Government.*—A proposal to obviate these difficulties is under consideration in connection with the institution of Village Panchayets.

SUBJECT No. 66.

Equal privileges to the raiyats under major and minor tanks.

Messrs. A. Shama Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk and Channakesava Rao, Koppa Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—The raiyats cultivating lands under minor tanks are not given any of the facilities given to those under major tanks, though the land tax on both is the same. It is requested that the privileges enjoyed by raiyats under major tanks be extended to those under minor tanks also.

*Reply of Government.*—There is no such distinction. The Village Panchayet scheme will, however, deal with this.

SUBJECT No. 67.

Improvement of tanks in Jodi and Agrahar Inam villages.

Messrs. Devappa, Shikarpur Taluk, and H. Ramappa, Shimoga Municipality.

*Summary of discussion.*—Tanks in Inam villages are deteriorating on account of continued neglect. It is therefore suggested that irrigation cess may be levied on Inam villages and repairs to tanks in such villages undertaken by Government. The difficulty is felt in the malnad, where owing to the prevalent forms of tenure, the Inamdars cannot levy any cess from the tenants.

Mr. Raghavachar.—The Inamdars recover both local and irrigation cesses from their raiyats and pay to Government only the local cess. If Government undertake the management and repairs of the tanks, it will greatly interfere with the Inamdars' privileges. It is to the interest of Inamdars to keep the tanks in good order. At any rate the proposal should be adopted only in the case of Inamdars who wish its adoption.

Mr. Krishnamurti Rao stated that Inamdars greatly neglect their tanks. This is invariably the case in the Inam villages which belong to more than one vrittidar. At the time of jamabandi, if as in the case of Government tanks, some attention is bestowed upon Inam tanks, their condition will be greatly improved.

*Reply of Government.*—Under Government Order No. 3786-95-01, dated 1st September 1887, the responsibility of Inamdars for the execution of timely repairs to their tanks and for maintaining them always in an efficient condition has been clearly laid down. If they neglect to do so, it is competent to the Government to take the work in hand and carry it out, the outlay being recovered from them as a revenue demand. The matter will be further considered.